

SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS

Under HealthChoice there is a special program called the Rare and Expensive Case Management Program (REM). This program was created to address the special needs of Medicaid recipients with certain rare and expensive medical conditions. REM participants are eligible to receive all medically necessary services (FFS) offered under Maryland Medicaid's State Plan as well as some optional services available to REM participants only.

Individuals enrolled in the REM Program are not enrolled in MCOs. They have a case manager who: assesses their needs, directs them to appropriate providers, works with multi-disciplinary teams, develops plans of care, monitors clinical care and services, assists in service coordination and family supports, addresses changing clinical and other needs, and recommends transfers out of the REM program when appropriate.

In addition to REM, the MCOs are required to ensure that they can and are able to provide services and referrals for other recipients who have special health care needs, or are in particular situations. The regulations specify that MCOs must meet specific standards for treating seven special needs populations. They include: (1) children with special health care needs, (2) individuals with physical disability, (3) individuals with a developmental disability, (4) pregnant and post-partum women, (5) individuals who are homeless, (6) individuals with HIV/AIDS: and (7) individuals with a need for substance abuse treatment.